are certainly for giving encouragement to the industry. Full particulars will be given at the time of discussing the resolution.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Are the Government aware that the Excise Department has been constantly disallowing request for licenses and that it is a hindrance to the progress of the industry?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* The statistics I quoted here do not show that.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know, Sir, whether in British Malabar, without any license whatever, sweet toddy for jaggery can be tapped?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* I want notice.

OPIUM AND GANJA—CAUSES FOR GREATER CONSUMPTION IN 1116

206. Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur-Rural):* Will the Government be pleased to state.—

Regarding the answers to question No. 135 which were printed but not taken up on 20th Vrischigam 1117:

(*a*) what was the cause of greater consumption of ganja and opium in 1116 than in 1115;

(*b*) have the Government come to know of any case of smuggling of ganja from the State;

(*c*) what were the amount of bids for the years 1115, 1116 and 1117;

(*d*) how did the bidders know that they were going to get superior qualities of ganja every succeeding year?

Mr. M. Raman Menon *(Commissioner of Excise):*

(*a*) The ration of opium was refixed in 1116 enhancing the quantity by half a seer each month. As regards ganja, the quality of the drug was superior and hence the demand was greater. The issues were made from the treasury and when during the early part of 1116 it was found that the issues of ganja were going high immediate action was taken to restrict the same.

(*b*) No. But in one or two ganja cases detected in the Madras Province the detecting officers seem to have suspected that the ganja was purchased from Cochin State.

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(*c*) Rentals of opium and ganja for the Chittur Taluk for the years 1115, 1116 and 1117.

	1115	1116	1117
	Rs.	*Rs.*	*Rs.*
Opium	1,380	2,720	1,815
Ganja	2,220	4,330	5,860

(*d*) The bid amounts do not depend upon the quality or the quantity of the stuff, but upon the competition at the auctions.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur-Rural):* Is Ganja stimulant?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Yes.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur-Rural):* Is the efficacy of ganja in inverse proportion to the superiority of the quality?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* These are all hypothetical questions.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur-Rural):* The demand goes higher when the quality becomes superior. Is it correct?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* That is correct.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur-Rural):* When superior quality was placed, there was actually greater demand. The effect is in inverse proportion to the quality. Would it not be better to increase it year by year, without going for a loss?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* I shall explain. The quantity sold in 1116 was higher than that was sold in 1115. Now the quantity issued has been considerably restricted. It has been restricted to 40 seers a month, much less than the consumption there before. Further the rental depends also to a very large extent on the spirit of the people and the competition going on there at the auction.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Are the Chittur people so fond of ganja *(Laughter)*?

Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur-Rural):* In 1115 the consumption was by far less than in 1116. Now some quantity is also smuggled into the adjacent British parts and therefore there is the increase noted. It was only half the quantity that was sold in 1116. On the morning of a bloom day the Chittur people became ganja minded. That is a pity.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* In answer to (*a*) it was stated that the ration of opium was refixed in

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1116 enhancing the quantity by half a seer each month. It was found that the issues were going high and therefore Government suspected some fraud has been going on, and we restricted it.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ കുട്ടി: ഗവൺമെണ്ടിന് ലാഭമല്ലേ വിലകൂട്ടുകയാണെങ്കിൽ?

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. വി. റാഫേൽ: ലാഭമുണ്ട്.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Why should you restrict it?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Very high consumption.

Mr. Ismail Hajee Essa Sait *(Mattancheri):* What is the reason for restriction?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Because Government found it was going out of proportion to the previous year's figures. Therefore they thought that some restriction was necessary.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* If more people like to have ganja, why should Government stand in their way? If more quantity is consumed, so much gain for the Government.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* People have not protested against it.

SUPPLY OF SLATES TO DEPRESSED CLASS STUDENTS—PARTICULARS REGARDING

207. Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) the price at which slates for supply to the Depressed Classes students were purchased in this academic year;

(*b*) who was the contractor and what was his quotation at the time of submitting his tender;

(*c*) whether there were not quotations at lower rates for slates received by the Hon'ble Minister or the Protector of the Depressed Classes; if so, from whom and at what rate?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):*

(*a*) Rs.0—3—0.

(*b*) Messrs. V. Sundara Ayyar and Sons, Trichur. 17½ per cent less than the estimate rates.

(*c*) No separate quotations for slates alone were called for.

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